

# Coordination Reports

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## Background

North Dakota Century Code Section 54-44.2 requires Information Services Division (ISD) to meet with the commissioner of the board of higher education to coordinate information technology systems and services. ISD is also required to meet and coordinate services with political subdivisions. The input from these meetings has been considered as part of the planning process. These coordination efforts will continue to be an integral part of the effort of state government to provide seamless, integrated services to stakeholders.

## Cooperation with North Dakota University System

ISD and North Dakota University System (NDUS) met on five separate occasions during the current biennium. The meetings focused on general information sharing as well as specific areas of cooperation.

Current areas of cooperation include:

- Information technology planning and Year 2000 planning efforts are coordinated.
- The Interactive Video Network, primarily used to deliver instructional services, is also shared with state agencies.
- ISD and the Higher Education Computing Network (HECN) cooperate to provide resources for accessing the Legislative Council's Bill Tracking System.
- ISD and HECN have negotiated single contracts for long distance, Internet access, and a private line backbone service for the state wide area network.
- ISD and HECN co-fund, as well as manage and design, the state wide area network. Recently ATM switches were installed connecting Bismarck, Fargo and Grand Forks utilizing DS3 circuits.
- North Dakota University System participates in the development of state wide technology standards with ISD even though they are exempt from the process by law.
- ISD and HECN cooperate in the deployment of the On-line Dakota Information Network (ODIN) to provide common library services throughout the state.

Recommendations for future cooperative efforts include:

- ISD and NDUS will work together to develop a curriculum for project management to be offered to state agencies.
- ISD and NDUS will continue to manage the state wide area network, expanding the ATM network to other Higher Education institutions and state agencies as required to meet their bandwidth needs.
- Based on funding approval, ISD will be actively involved in the SAGE project to re-engineer NDUS administrative and student information systems.

## Cooperation with Political Subdivisions

ISD along with the Association of Counties and the League of Cities formed a committee to review the coordination of technology between state government and local political subdivisions. Members of the committee include:

Mark Johnson – Association of Counties  
Connie Sprynczynatyk – League of Cities  
Jim Heck – ISD  
Bruce Furness – Mayor of Fargo  
Mark Forseth – City of Hillsboro  
Steve Frovarp – City of Hazen  
Darrell Hournbuckle – City of Jamestown  
Jim Rakkness – City of Minot  
Sandi Tabor – City of Bismarck  
Greg Welch – City of Mandan  
Dean Dahl – Grand Forks County  
Kelly Hornstein – Richland County  
Mike Steiner – Cass County  
Susan Ritter – Renville County  
Pam Stenehjelm – Dunn County  
Erling Karlsbraaten – Benson County  
Marvin Hansen – Dickey County  
Mike Ressler – ISD

The four meetings in the current biennium focused on sharing information in order to understand potential areas of coordination and cooperation. Topics included Year 2000 issues, Internet access, Geographic Information

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Systems (GIS), technology planning, criminal justice and public safety information systems.

Current areas of cooperation include:

- Twenty-seven counties are connected to the state network for e-mail, Internet, and state government access.
- Counties and cities have the option to purchase from the state long distance telephone contract.
- ISD contracts with the North Dakota Association of Counties to provide technical support for the wide area network at the county locations.
- ISD's Records Management section provides guidelines for counties and cities to follow in the management of their records.

Potential areas for future cooperative efforts include:

- Sharing the cost of a dedicated circuit for Internet access by counties and nearby cities.
- Sharing information from GIS databases.
- Researching the options for sharing criminal justice and public safety data.
- Continued information sharing about Year 2000 efforts, network access issues and other technology related topics.